

VESPERS | A Service of Evening Worship

Host Home Guide

First—thank you for making your backyard, front yard, patio, or outdoor space, a place for worship. Now to the particulars.

SAFETY FIRST

Please determine your own safe distancing practices based on the latest information. And inform folks who plan to participate in worship with you, before they arrive, what those practices will be.

SPACE AND SET UP

If possible, provide a simple altar in the midst of your gathering area. Essential elements would be a table and a candle. Other objects, a cross for example, or fabric, or flowers, are up to you.



The table could be stool, or a stone or a stump, or a flat top fire pit; something simply to place a candle on as a visual point of focus.

The candle (or candles, the more the merrier) should be of the jar type or a pillar in a glass hurricane.



SCRIPT for WORSHIP

Use the liturgical guide located below as the script for your vesper worship. The list of daily Scripture readings for use in the order of service is also located below—just find the day of the week and week that you're meeting and plug the designated readings into the worship guide.

MUSIC

Make use of your own playlists of worshipful and meditative songs, hymns, choral or instrumental pieces to include in each week's vesper worship (there's a place indicated in the worship guide). If you need music suggestions, contact Anne or Mark to get their playlists.

If you have further questions, please contact Anne. Not Mark.

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GATHERING

LEADER: Let us enter into worship with these words from Psalm 16:

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night, also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices.

WELCOMING THE LIGHT (as a candle is lit)

LEADER: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A PSALM READING (for the day)

LEADER: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silence.

AN OLD TESTAMENT READING (for the day)

LEADER: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silence.

A NEW TESTAMENT READING (for the day)

LEADER: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Silence.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION AND PRAISE

Selection of a song, an anthem, a hymn, or an instrumental piece for prayerful meditation

TIME OF RESPONSE OR SHARING

All are invited to share, as they feel comfortable, any thoughts or insights prompted by the Scriptures, the silences, or the music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | A BIDDING PRAYER

LEADER: *Let us pray together. In the silent space allowed after each petition, we are invited to voice, aloud or in silence, any name, joy, concern or anything on our hearts. Then we will all respond with: “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”*

O Lord, we come here today in fellowship with one another, setting aside this time solely for you. We offer ourselves in praise and worship. We lean in together to hear you speak to us, and we ask you help us leave here shaped a little bit more into the likeness of Christ.

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we thank you for those times this week when we smiled and laughed, when we have seen something beautiful, when we felt your peace and assurance, when we rejoiced in your many blessings to us; we name these now . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we lift up to you all those we know who this day struggle with fear and anxiousness, the suffering of the body or the mind, the grief of loss or disappointment, or the burden of despair; we name them now . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we lift up to you those who remain at the margins of our own community, who find it so hard to get work and food and shelter and justice enough to be well . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we lift up to you our nation and all those who govern, lead, legislate, create, and maintain the policies that support the common good—for all—give them wisdom . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, in this time of disruption and distance, we lift up to you those who are engaged in the ongoing work of caring for, curing, healing, rescuing, supplying, and standing with us all, in every walk of life . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, we lift up to you ourselves, for we have had our own days of difficulty and anxiety, times when we have been less than our best, and so we ask for your mercy . . .

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And now O Lord, for the joy and hope we have because you are present with us, we give you thanks and praise, in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave us these words to pray, saying . . .

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

LEADER: We are sent forth with these words from Psalm 27:

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

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DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS

(Monday, August 17- Friday, November 6)

- **Monday, August 17, 2020:** Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21
- **Tuesday, August 18, 2020:** Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29
- **Wednesday, August 19, 2020:** Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13
- **Thursday, August 20, 2020:** Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11
- **Friday, August 21, 2020:** Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18
- **Saturday, August 22, 2020:** Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12
- **Monday, August 24, 2020:** Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11
- **Tuesday, August 25, 2020:** Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36
- **Wednesday, August 26, 2020:** Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13
- **Thursday, August 27, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6
- **Friday, August 28, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
- **Saturday, August 29, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 4:1-9; Matthew 8:14-17
- **Monday, August 31, 2020:** Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 4:10-31; Revelation 3:1-6
- **Tuesday, September 1, 2020:** Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 5:1-6:13; Revelation 3:7-13
- **Wednesday, September 2, 2020:** Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 7:14-25; Matthew 12:22-32
- **Thursday, September 3, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

- **Friday, September 4, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 10:21-29; Romans 10:15b-21
- **Saturday, September 5, 2020:** Psalm 149; Exodus 11:1-10; Matthew 23:29-36
- **Monday, September 7, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2020:** Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22
- **Thursday, September 10, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16
- **Friday, September 11, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16
- **Saturday, September 12, 2020:** Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15
- **Monday, September 14, 2020:** Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29
- **Tuesday, September 15, 2020:** Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2
- **Wednesday, September 16, 2020:** Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25
- **Thursday, September 17, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4
- **Friday, September 18, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10
- **Saturday, September 19, 2020:** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30
- **Monday, September 21, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 16:31-35; Romans 16:1-16
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:1-9; Romans 16:17-20
- **Wednesday, September 23, 2020:** Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32; Matthew 18:1-5
- **Thursday, September 24, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Isaiah 48:17-21; James 4:11-16
- **Friday, September 25, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 20:1-13; Acts 13:32-41

- **Saturday, September 26, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 27:12-14; Mark 11:27-33
- **Monday, September 28, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 18:1-12; Philippians 1:3-14
- **Tuesday, September 29, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 18:13-27; Philippians 1:15-21
- **Wednesday, September 30, 2020:** Psalm 42; Exodus 19:9b-25; Matthew 9:2-8
- **Thursday, October 1, 2020:** Psalm 19; Exodus 23:1-9; Colossians 2:16-23
- **Friday, October 2, 2020:** Psalm 19; Exodus 23:14-19; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a
- **Saturday, October 3, 2020:** Psalm 19; Exodus 23:10-13; John 7:40-52
- **Monday, October 5, 2020:** Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10
- **Tuesday, October 6, 2020:** Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- **Wednesday, October 7, 2020:** Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; John 11:45-57
- **Thursday, October 8, 2020:** Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
- **Friday, October 9, 2020:** Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:9-11; James 4:4-10
- **Saturday, October 10, 2020:** Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:12-18; Mark 2:18-22
- **Monday, October 12, 2020:** Psalm 97; Exodus 32:15-35; Jude 17-25
- **Tuesday, October 13, 2020:** Psalm 97; Exodus 33:1-6; Philippians 3:13-4:1
- **Wednesday, October 14, 2020:** Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17:7-20; John 6:25-35
- **Thursday, October 15, 2020:** Psalm 99; Exodus 33:7-11; 3 John 9-12
- **Friday, October 16, 2020:** Psalm 99; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5
- **Saturday, October 17, 2020:** Psalm 99; Exodus 39:32-43; Matthew 14:1-12

- **Monday, October 19, 2020:** Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 40:34-38; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20
- **Tuesday, October 20, 2020:** Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 12:1-9; Revelation 18:21-24
- **Wednesday, October 21, 2020:** Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9; Matthew 17:22-27
- **Thursday, October 22, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; Titus 1:5-16
- **Friday, October 23, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15
- **Saturday, October 24, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; John 5:39-47
- **Monday, October 26, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48 ; Numbers 33:38-39; James 2:8-13
- **Tuesday, October 27, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48; Exodus 34:29-35; James 2:14-26
- **Wednesday, October 28, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7 ; Matthew 19:16-22
- **Thursday, October 29, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 1:1-11; Romans 2:17-29
- **Friday, October 30, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3
- **Saturday, October 31, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:15-24; Matthew 23:13-28
- **Monday, November 2, 2020:** Psalm 128; Joshua 4:1-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
- **Tuesday, November 3, 2020:** Psalm 128; Joshua 6:1-16, 20; Acts 13:1-12
- **Wednesday, November 4, 2020:** Psalm 128; Joshua 10:12-14; Matthew 15:1-9
- **Thursday, November 5, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 5:10-12; Revelation 8:6-9:12
- **Friday, November 6, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 8:30-35; Revelation 9:13-21
- **Saturday, November 7, 2020:** Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 20:1-9; Matthew 24:1-14